

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185435
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 /019 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:KMCCORMICK:DH
APPROVED BY AF/S:HKAISER
AF/S:LMACFARLANE

-----023169 220011Z /23
O 212340Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, BC

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF LEON TEMPLESMAN REPRESENTATTVES

1. ROBERT PALTAUF OF NEW YORK DIAMOND FIRM LEON TEMPLESMAN AND SONS, WHO VISITED BOTSWANA IN FEBRUARY, ADVISES THAT HE PLANS TO RETURN TO GABORONE ON MONDAY, JULY 24. PALTAUF PLANS TO FLY BACK TO JOHANNESBURG ON JULY 25 AND RETURN TO GABORONE ON JULY 26 ACCOMPANIED BY FIRM'S LEGAL ADVISER, FORMER KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION STAFFER TED SORENSON.

2. SORENSON AND PALTAUF PLAN TO PRESENT PROPOSAL FOR DIAMOND CUTTING AND POLISHING FACTORY TO DR. CHIEPE AND OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF WATER AND MINERALS, WITH WHOM THEY HAVE JULY 26 APPOINTMENT. THEY INDICATE GOB MAY HAVE EXTENDED BIDDING PERIOD FOR SUCH A FACTORY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO INCLUDE THEIR PROPOSAL ALONG WITH OTHERS ALREADY RECEIVED. SORENSON, WHO RECALLS ONCE MEETING PRESIDENT KHAMA AT SOCIAL EVENT, WISHES TO MEET WITH HIM
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ON THIS VISIT IF POSSIBLE AND HAS SUBMITTED REQUEST TO BOTSWANA UN MISSION. SINCE SORENSON AND PALTAUF PLAN TO ARRIVE JULY 26 AT 1005 ON FLIGHT SA 112 FROM JOHANNESBURG AND LEAVE AT 1440 JULY 27 ON FLIGHT SA 105, MEETING WOULD

HAVE TO BE JULY 26 OR 27.

3. BOTSWANA UN MISSION COULD NOT SPECULATE ON CHANCES
PRESIDENT KHAMA WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET TEMPLESMAN REPS,
AND DEPARTMENT INFORMED PALTAUF OF PRESIDENT'S FULL
AND CAREFULLY GUARDED SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, PALTAUF MAY
CALL ON EMBASSY FOR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. PLEASE
PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE185435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KMCCORMICK:DH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780301-0145
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780732/aaaabaud.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9b28a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1922089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF LEON TEMPLESMAN REPRESENTATTVES
TAGS: BTRA, BC
To: GABORONE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9b28a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014